

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 297524

22

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TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297524

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFRO, LA, US

SUBJECT:LAO NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION IN WASHINGTON

REF: 1. VIENTIANE 2809, 2. PARIS 35897

1. LPDR CHARGE SOMPHONG VANITSAVETH AND HIS WIFE GAVE
RECEPTION DECEMBER 2 AT LAO EMBASSY/RESIDENCE IN WASHINGTON
ATTENDED BY ABOUT 100 PEOPLE. LAO COUNSELOR AND FIRST
SECRETARY FROM LPDR MISSION TO UN WERE PRESENT TO SWELL
NUMBERS OF OFFICIAL LAO TO FOUR. SENIOR US REPRESENTATIVE
PRESENT WAS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN
AFFAIRS MILLER.

2. SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON PROVIDED MOST PROMINENT
CONTINGENT OF "GUESTS," HEADED BY AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN.
SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICER IVANOV CIRCULATED PERFORMING INTRO-
DUCTIONS AND SHOWING OTHER GUESTS TO BUFFET TABLE ALMOST IN
QUALITY OF HOST. EASTERN EUROPEAN CONTINGENT PRESENT
INCLUDED ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR AND SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM
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PAGE 02 STATE 297524

BULGARIAN, POLISH AND EAST GERMAN EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON.

PRC WAS REPRESENTED BY CHIEF OF LIAISON OFFICE IN WASHINGTON
HUAN CHEN.

3. NON-COMMUNIST DIPLOMATS PRESENT INCLUDED NICARAGUAN
AMBASSADOR (IN HIS CAPACITY AS DEAN OF WASHINGTON CORPS),
THAI CHARGE, AND MORE JUNIOR OFFICIALS FROM FRENCH,
ITALIAN, BELGIAN, BRITISH, CANADIAN, SOUTH AFRICAN,
BANGLADESHI AND LIBYAN EMBASSIES.

4. ONE ROOM OF CHANCERY WAS DECORATED FOR OCCASION WITH
BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS OF LAO LEADERS, PRINCIPALLY
OF PRIME MINISTER KAYSONE ON HIS 1976 TRAVELS. THERE WAS
A FAIRLY LAVISH BUFFET AND A BAR, BUT NO TOASTS WERE MADE
AND THERE WAS NO TRADITIONAL LAO DANCING. ONLY "NON-
OFFICIAL" LAO PRESENT WERE LAO LANGUAGE TEACHER FROM FSI,
LAO VOA BROADCASTER, AND SOMPHONG NORINDR, SON OF THE
FORMER LAO AMBASSADOR TO U.S., PHENG NORINDR. THERE WAS
LITTLE CHARACTERISTICALLY LAO FLAVOR TO EVENT. ROBINSON

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